

Message Text

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ORIGIN L-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 OES-06 DHA-02 ACDA-07
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IO - TOUSSAINT

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L - ALDRICH

D/HA - SIEVERTS

DOD/OSD/ISA - NAFTZINGER

ACDA - MAZEAU

S/S-O - JACOBSON

S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN

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R 082205Z APR 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 079511

GENEVA FOR US DEL TO DIP. CONFERENCE ON INTL. HUMANITARIAN LAW

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ICRC, PARM, PFOR

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

REF: STATE 61406

1) ON APRIL 4, DEPARTMENT SENT ISRAELI EMBASSY FOLLOWING
DIPLOMATIC NOTE IN RESPONSE TO NOTE TRANSMITTED REFTL.

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2) BEGIN TEXT:

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE REFERS TO THE EMBASSY OF ISRAEL'S
NOTE NUMBER A0/78 OF MARCH 16, 1977, CONCERNING THE ISRAELI
PROPOSAL FOR OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF THE RED SHIELD OF DAVID

THE UNITED STATES REAFFIRMS THAT IT FAVORS THE OFFICIAL

RECOGNITION OF THE RED SHIELD OF DAVID. IN THIS REGARD, IF THE ISRAELI PROPOSAL FOR A NEW ARTICLE 2 BIS (CCDH/I/286) SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO A VOTE AT THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE GENEVA DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON THE REAFFIRMATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW APPLICABLE IN ARMED CONFLICTS, THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION WOULD VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE PROPOSAL.

AS THE EMBASSY'S NOTE INDICATES, THE BELLIGERENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST HAVE THROUGHOUT RESPECTED THE RED SHIELD OF DAVID IN PRACTICE. IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT THIS PRACTICE

BE CONTINUED. IF THE ISRAELI PROPOSAL TO GAIN OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF THE RED SHIELD OF DAVID WERE DEFEATED AT THE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE, THERE IS A RISK THAT IT MIGHT ADVERSELY AFFECT THIS PRACTICE. IN VIEW OF THE POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS UNFORTUNATELY BROUGHT TO BEAR ON THIS SUBJECT, IT SEEMS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT THE ISRAELI PROPOSAL COULD OBTAIN THE MAJORITY NECESSARY FOR ADOPTION AT THE CONFERENCE. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THAT IT WOULD BE BEST IF THE MATTER WERE NOT BROUGHT TO A VOTE AND THEREFORE URGES THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL TO CONSIDER THIS COURSE OF ACTION.

THE DEPARTMENT ASSURES THE EMBASSY THAT THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION TO THE CONFERENCE WILL MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE ISRAELI DELEGATION IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THE BEST POSSIBLE COORDINATION BOTH ON THE TACTICS AND SUBSTANCE OF THIS MATTER. END TEXT.

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